

# The Daily Gazetteer.

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## CONSIDERATIONS on the Fourth Occasional Writer.

In my Two former Papers on the fourth Occasional Writer, I endeavoured to shew, that the *Faris* had little in it of true Humour; that its Characters were out of Nature, and almost all the Railery therein quite misplaced. In this Paper I purpose to examine what has the Appearance

of Argument, in order to shew, that there is in it *solid or convincing*; but that all its Weight is from bold Assertions, and a dextrous passing by for self-evident Truths, which on an impartial scrutiny, will all appear to be downright False. This, if I can do, I hope my Readers will be as to trust their Senses upon other Occasions, as they suffer these Political Jugglers to amuse them, as are often done, by boasting of their own Skill, mentioning other People's Eye-sight. When Men are not a Habit of Deceiving, they seldom lose it; and forbid that People who have once been deluded should thence-forward lose the Power of distinguishing, and be constrained to remain the Dupes of whole Interest it is to tickle their Ears; that, *if they*, they may go on in the same Road, and judge cheerfully in their Service, tho' they know the Purposes of their Masters. Some such deluded there are, otherwise Occasional Writers, and their Papers would not be read, and while there are Papers, and such Readers, Attempts to undeceive must be laudable in themselves, and useful Consequences. But to come to the Point.

A Conversation is opened by *Faris's* acquainting us, that Peace was made with the Spaniards; Peace as was glorious in itself, and lasting in its Effects. I do not pretend to say, that these are the *Words* of *Faris*; but every impartial will see, that setting aside the Absurdities according to this Gentleman's System, must be the Language of every Man who is not a Patriot, *Virginus*, declares himself dissatisfied; because, says he, we have a Fleet at Sea, and a Fleet ought to do something before it comes to all Events, in order to make any Peace that is glorious and lasting. 'If, says he, we have the Spaniard feel; if we give him Cause to remember the Effects of our Power, we shall keep him humble, and make him just for his own Sake; and then give him Arguments that must convince him, that no Alliance can screen him, and no Support him.' *Plumby*, the leaden Patriot, constitution ought to have been a little cooler of *Virginus's*, but who, by an unaccountable expression, as a Moderator, twice as much Fire of the Disputants: This same *Plumby*, I was designed to be the Politician in this Paper, his Passion in the following outrageous regard to the very same Topick. 'We have been already almost destroy'd by the War is necessary, just, and universally for; and, in one Word, it is most certain, this Time, and on this Occasion, *Vox Populi* is *Dei*.' The Drift of all this is plainly to inform the People, that the Publick is Betray'd, if it does not commit some Act of Hostility; and that, a War at all Events, is preferable to any Terms whatsoever. This, I protest, seems to be the true State of the Case, and I am sorry, if the Weakness of my Judgment has made a Mistake, which I am positive my Will never suffer me to commit. But as I have no doubt my having stated the Question fairly, and proceeded to shew the Reasons, why I cannot think that Course expedient, which the Author of the *Occasional Writer*, and the Patriots of his Stamp, entirely recommend.

great, and indeed the only Reason assigned for the *harsh Remedy* prescribed by these Gentlemen: this is, A Blow struck, say they, would fill the Spaniards with Power; it would fill the Spaniards with Power; it would also revive our Reputation among the Nations. By the way, this is a favourite Ex-

pression with the Author of the *Occasional Writer*, and he never suffers one of his Patriots to make an *Harangue* without it. However, I do not see any great Force in this Argument, or any apparent Fitness to justify so emphatical an Application where he uses it. The sending a strong Fleet on the Coasts of Spain, doth as much demonstrate our Power, as if it committed Hostilities as soon as it came there. The suffering our great Guns to speak, may make the *Mob* laugh; but all Men of Sense must know, that the Force of a Ship is just as easily discerned if her Guns do not speak as if they do. But, say the *Malecontents*, we have fitted out Fleets before, and they have done nothing. If they mean by doing of Nothing, that they did not go upon *Canada* Expeditions; that they did not fall upon the Fleets of other Nations without a Declaration of War, or that they did not do their Work, by involving the Nation in a doubtful and bloody War, then what they say is true; but it is nothing to the Purpose. On the other hand, if they mean by doing of Nothing, that they did not do what they were intended to do; this is begging the Question, and taking for granted what has been twenty Times disproved. They say too, that sending Fleets on the Coasts of Spain, is provoking the Spaniards full as much as if we suffer'd those Fleets to commit Hostilities, which they illustrate by the familiar Comparison of *flaking a Cant over a Man's Head*. But, mark how this Comparison holds. The Man, they say, thinks himself bound, in point of Honour, to fight; the Spaniards, we say, are in a Disposition to give us Satisfaction in an amicable Way. Who reasons best then? The *Malecontents*, who suppose that such a Proceeding must irritate Spain; or, the Ministry, who conceived that this Method would bring the Spaniard to his Senses? As to restoring the *British* Reputation, that is merely the Cant of the Faction; for who, besides them, can think the Reputation of Britain in any Danger? For my own Part, when I reflect on the familiar Use of this Phrase in the Pamphlet before me, I cannot help thinking, that the Author of it must have been deeply concerned in publick Affairs about the Year 1712, when the Reputation of Britain was in real Danger, and when the Clamour of her Allies was so very loud, that I believe it has rung in the Gentleman's Ears ever since. If my Advice would have any Weight with him, I should recommend it to him to compose his Mind, and to have a better Opinion of the State of his Country, which must be certainly pretty well recovered by this Time, since it is now more than twenty Years since He has had any thing to do in the Administration. A salutary Circumstance, surely!

THE judicious Reader will perceive, that there is one very extraordinary Insinuation runs through this Pamphlet from Beginning to End. It is this; That, whatever *France*, or her Prime Minister, the Cardinal de Fleury, may pretend, they are at Bottom our Enemies, and therefore we ought to do — What? Why, make War with Spain, right or wrong, to let Her and Them see, that no Alliance can screen the Spaniard, no Power support him. This certainly is very extraordinary Doctrine; admitting all that they tell us were true: For certainly the Power of France and Spain taken together, must be far greater than the Power of Spain taken alone; and therefore to offer it as a Reason for our breaking with Spain at all Events, that such a Breach would bring France upon our Backs, after the Outcry they have made about the Power of France, is beyond any Body's Understanding but their own. But then, again, the sage, the well-meaning Author of *White's* *Common Sense*, told us, not long ago, viz in his Paper of August the 19th, That we had not the least Reason to be apprehensive of France; and that if our Politicians were uneasy at the growing Power of that Nation, they might make it less, without striking a Blow, by easing our People of Taxes, and by disbanding the Army. For God's Sake, which of these Gentlemen is in Earnest; which is Jest? Or why should these worthy Persons be more angry with the Administration, than with each other; since it is evident, they differ as widely from each other, as each of them does from the Administration? But they are Patriots; this sanctifies all they do, and say; Contraries may be right in them, and the most plain and candid Behaviour in the World, absolutely wrong in

the Ministry. But how? Ay! there's the Question, that I am call'd a *hundred Blockheads* a Week for not being able to answer.

BUT as *Folly* and *Fallhood* will be ever distinguishable, clothe them in what Robes you please, so Truth and Reason will always have their Beauties, consider them in what Light you will. If, as the *Occasional Writer* suggests, the present System of Affairs in Europe be not altogether clear and apparent; if the Spaniards have private Friends; if they have made secret Treaties of Alliance; if very considerable Assistance would be afforded them in case we broke with them; shall we blame the Ministry for concluding an honourable and advantageous Treaty, without breaking with them? Or shall we say that the Fleet, which brought this about, was fitted out to no Purpose? That it answered no End? Or that it was a *Marine Hobgoblin*? Surely! we ought not. But, on the contrary, we ought to be extremely thankful to Those, who, having nothing to Fear for themselves, took such wise and judicious Precautions, for the Sake of the Nation, at the very Time their Enemies were endeavouring to inflame the Nation against them for taking such Precautions.

BUT if, as *Common Sense* will have it, the Spaniards have no Friends; and if, conscious of this, and of their own Errors, they have been content that all the Satisfaction be made us we can desire, and are ready also to grant us all the Advantages we can reasonably ask, shall we not be satisfied with this? but, on the contrary, resolve to burn and destroy merely for the Sake of burning and destroying? We, who are a Trading Nation, and whose Interest it has always been understood to be upon good Terms with Spain for the Sake of our Trade? Certainly this is Language that can never be thought reasonable any where, much less in the CITY, where such Matters ought to be, and questionless are, best understood: One may therefore safely say, that stripping the florid Harangues of *Virginus* and *Plumby*, of the Ornaments they borrow from profane Wit and scriptural Exhortations, there is nothing in them that can prejudice the Administration; but, quite the Reverse, their Arguments turn upon themselves; and it appears, even on the Principles which they lay down, that the Ministry hath served his Country faithfully, which is his great Crime; and what aggravates it still more, hath defeated thereby all the Hopes of the *Malecontents*.

R. FREEMAN.

Leghorn, Sept 24.

BY Order from the Council of Regency, several Military Officers of this Garrison have been dismissed: To some few of them, in Consideration of their Services, a small Pension has been allowed, on Condition that they shall not go out of Tuscany. The Commanders of all the Towers and small Forts along the Sea Coasts are also discharged; instead of whom, Sergeants from the neighbouring Garrisons are ordered to take Charge of the said Forts, &c.

## FOREIGN PORTS.

Lisbon, Oct. 4. N. S. On the 14th ult. arrived the Dove, Scott, from Dundee; the Ann, Malony, from Cork; On the 15th, the Catherine, Connor, from Cork; the Providence, Wilkinson, from Wiscach; On the 16th, the Rose, Hackler, from Portsmouth; and the Dolly, Reeves, from Newfoundland: On the 17th, the Owners Goodwill, Arbuthnot, from Dundee; On the 18th, the Endeavour, Barton, from Sicily; the Dispatch, Mudie, from Venice; and the Prince William, Chaille, from Genoa: On the 19th, the Mayflower, Driscoll, from Marseilles; the Elizabeth, Crawford, from Georgetown; On the 20th, the Seedy, Michael; the Prosperous, Perry; and the Totness, Bursell, all from Newfoundland: On the 21st, the Sarah, Reeks, from ditto; On the 23d, the Thomasia, Rand, from Genoa; the Mermaid, Barnby, from Hull; the Mary, Guinon, from Philadelphia; the Catherine, Weston, from Newfoundland: On the 24th, the Providence, Anderson, from St. Michael's; On the 25th, the Pompey, Terry, from Norway;



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